INDIA

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This Supplement consists of a FULL Report, specially drawn up for "India," of the Debates on Indian subjects in both Houses of Parliament, and questions put on such subjects and the answers given to them, arranged chronologically, from May 24th to June 25th.

Imperial Parliament.

May 24th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HEALTH OF BRITISH TROOPS.

East India (Contagious Diseases),—Petition from Yorkshire, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

May 25th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FAMINE AND THE BUDGET.

Mr. SAMUEL SMITH asked the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, in view of the great suffering caused by the Indian famine, and the serious questions raised by it as regarded the future administration of India, the Government would bring the Indian Budget before the House at a time when a full attendance of members might be obtained.

Mr. BALFOUR: The hon. gentleman is aware that the sympathy felt in this House with the sufferings of the people India is very great, but I do not think that would necessarily produce a large audience for the discussion of the Indian Budget, whatever were the time of year selected for the debate. I believe we have an example of the Indian Budget being discussed in June, and the audience was not greater then than it is when the Budget is taken at the usual time.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Colonel WYNDHAM MURRAY asked the Secretary of State for India whether an outbreak of enteric fever had occurred among the Black Watch regiment at Subathu:

Whether the same regiment suffered severely from the same disease last summer in the same place:

Whether at that time the prevalence of the disease was accounted for by one of the reservoirs being infected with the particular bacillus which was associated with that disease, the water being found to be swarming with the characteristic microbes:

What steps had been taken in the matter since last summer;

And, if all precautions had been taken, what special advantages existed at that place that it should be maintained longer as a troop station.

Lord G. HAMILTON: A fresh outbreak of enteric fever has, I regret to say occurred among the Black Watch, which arrived at Subathu on 24th March last.

A telegram from the Viceroy dated 23rd May states that eighteen cases have occurred, fourteen of which however are believed to have been contracted on the march up from the plains. Two cases have resulted fatally.

Every possible sanitary precaution has been taken, and a thorough bacteriological examination into the cause of the disease is being made. A scheme for improving the permanent water-supply, involving the acquisition of land and springs, is being carried out; meanwhile the laying of a temporary pipe is nearly completed.

Subathu, which is 4,500ft. above the sea has a good climate, and is not usually unhealthy.

May 26th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITION FROM JHALAWAR.

Restoration of Mahárájá Zalim Singh,—Petition from Jhalawar, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

May 27th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OFFICERS FOR STAFF EMPLOY.

Captain PIRIE asked the Secretary of State for India whether it was the case that by the Indian Army Regulations an officer who had passed through a two years' course at the Staff College was still kept on exactly the same footing as regards claims for staff employment as one who had merely been through the two months' garrison class and passed the usual examinations for promotion to field rank:

And whether the great majority of appointments on the Army Headquarter Staff and District Staff in India were held by officers who were not Staff College graduates; and, if so, whether he would consider the advisability of altering these regulations so as to assimilate them with those which prevailed in the Home Army, whereby preference in the giving of staff appointments would be given to Staff College Officers, thus enabling the Indian Government to profit to the full extent of the payments which it made towards the maintenance of the Staff College, and allowing it to give legitimate reward to its officers whom it encouraged to pass the course.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The selection of officers for staff employ in India is vested in the Government of India and the Commander-in-Chief in India, and I am confident that in making such selection these authorities weigh carefully the merits and qualifications of all candidates, and that due weight is given to the possession of a Staff College certificate. I see no reason to interfere with their discretion, or to alter the Indian Army Regulations, which on this subject are substantially the same as the Queen's Regulations.

THE STAFF CORPS.

Sir SEYMOUR KING asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would call upon the Government of India to make a report as to the effectiveness of the steps taken by the Indian Government in 1894 to prevent the supersession of officers of the Indian Staff Corps by those in the line by granting temporary rank to commandants and seconds in command in Native regiments.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The question of the supersession of officers of the Indian Staff Corps by those in the line is now under my consideration in connexion with a letter recently received from the Government of India.

THE CONDITION OF JHALAWAR.

Mr. W. JONES, on behalf of Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS, asked the Secretary of State for India whether 200 rifles and 50 sabres of the Deoli irregular force had been ordered to Jhalrapatan in view of the unsettled condition of the State of Jhalawar:

And, whether, seeing that the unrest which that force was intended to deal with was the result of the long period of uncertainty as to the future government of the State, would he consider the advisability of restoring His Highness the late Mahárájá Rana to the Gadi, with limited powers and an experienced political agent.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: I have received no official information as to the movement of troops to which the question refers, but assuming that such a movement of troops has occurred, I cannot admit the hon. member's view as to its cause. As regards the restoration of the Mahárájá Rana, I informed the hon. member on the 21st July, last year, that the decision of the Government of India was final, and I see no reason for altering the view that I then expressed.

Mr. PARKER SMITH: Arising out of this, I wish to ask the Secretary of State for India a question of which I have given private notice—whether, in view of the misconduct of the late Mahárájá Rana and the failure of heirs, he is not prepared to terminate the uncertainty by restoring Jhalawar to the original parent State of Kotah; and whether such action would not be most in accordance with Rajput customs and the desires of Rajputs.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: It is true that the greater part of Jhala was part of Kotah, and was ceded on the condition that in the event of the failure of heirs it should lapse to Kotah. Such an arrangement would be in accordance with treaty obligation, and not, I believe, repugnant to the wishes of the majority of the inhabitants.

ADDITIONAL LIGHTS IN THE RED SEA.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND asked the President of the Board of Trade whether, in view of the increased shipping from India and Australia, the Government would take steps to have an adequate number of lighthouses stationed on the shores of the Red Sea.

Mr. RITCHIE: As stated in my reply to the hon. member for the South Division of Bristol, a circular has been addressed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to the representatives of the Great Powers inviting their co-operation on the subject of additional lights in the Red Sea. No steps can be taken by Her Majesty's Government until the replies to these communications have been received and considered.

May 31st.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE FAMINE.
FURTHER PAPERS PRESENTED.

East India (Famine and Relief Operations),—Copy presented,—of further papers regarding the famine and the relief operations in India during the years 1896-7 [by command]; to lie upon the Table.

STAFF OFFICERS.

Colonel WYNDHAM MURRAY asked the Secretary of State for India, on what principles appointments to the staff of the army in India were made:

And, what were the numbers of staff officers employed with that army who came under the following heads respectively: Officers trained at the staff college; Officers trained by practical experience in campaigns; and, Officers without special training for staff duties.

Lord GEORGE HAMILTON: Speaking generally, an officer is eligible for appointment to the staff in India if he has four years service, has passed the necessary examination in the native languages, has gone through the staff college, or has passed the qualifying examination laid down in Indian Army Regulations, or has proved his ability in the field. Subject to these conditions, the selection of officers for staff employ rests with the Government of India and the Commander-in-Chief in India.

MILITARY OFFICERS AND THE "JUBILEE."
THE SCRAMBLE FOR FREE SEATS.

Captain NORTON asked the Secretary of State for India, whether the officers of the army in India at present on leave in England had been afforded accommodation to view her Majesty's procession on the 22nd June; and, if so, how many seats had been allotted to them.

Lord G. HAMILTON: The seats placed at the disposal of the India Office for the Civil and Military services of India have been allotted to those in this country who were considered to have the best claims without regard to the question whether they are at home on leave or otherwise.

LAND REVENUE SETTLEMENTS IN MADRAS.
IMPORTANT PAPERS WITHHELD.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he would lay upon the Table of the House the proceedings of the Government of Madras of July, 1895, revising the Settlement Manual and Standing Orders of the Board of Revenue, together with the Correspondence which led to such revision.

Lord G. HAMILTON: Having communicated with the Government of India I am afraid I cannot promise to lay on the Table of the House the papers referred to in this question.

POLICE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS.
HOW INDIANS ARE TREATED.

Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN asked the Secretary of State for India, on what ground Natives of India were excluded from competing in the examinations held in London and Calcutta for the higher offices in the Indian police:

And, on what grounds the House allowances, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 90,000 per annum, granted to European and Eurasian telegraph masters and signallers in India, were withheld from Natives of India holding the same appointments.

Lord G. HAMILTON: As regard the Indian Police officers recruited in this country, it is thought, in view of the nature of their duties, to be essential that the conditions for admission to compete should be identical with those for commissions in the British Army. As regards those who are selected in India, a discretion is allowed to each separate Government, and as at present advised I see no reason to call in question the manner in which they have exercised it.

In reply to the second part of the honourable member's question, I can only say that I have no knowledge of the distinction which he alleges to be drawn between Europeans and Eurasians on the one hand, and Natives of India on the other, but I will make enquiry on the subject.

Sir W. WEDDERBURN: With reference to his reply I should like to ask the noble lord whether this distinction of race is in accordance with her Majesty's proclamation of 1858. (Ministerialist cries of "oh! oh!")

No reply was given.

STAFF OFFICERS.

Captain PIRIE asked the Secretary of State for India what was the total number of appointments on the Army Headquarter Staff, Command Staff, and District Staff of the Army in India; and the number of such appointments which were held respectively by officers P.S.C. and by officers not so qualified.

Lord G. Hamilton: Excluding personal staff and the staff for Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, and musketry instruction, there are 142 appointments on the Staff of Army Headquarters, Army Commands, and Districts. Of these thirty-six are held by officers who have passed through the Staff College and two (2) are vacant. The rest are held by officers who have not passed through the Staff College.

Captain Pirie asked the Secretary of State for India whether he could state the number of officers P.S.C. of the Indian Staff Corps who were employed on staff duty at present, also the number of the same who were not so employed, and the average period for which these latter had remained without such employment after qualifying for it by passing through the Staff College.

Lord G. Hamilton: There are at present on the active list thirty officers of the Indian Staff Corps who have passed through the Staff College. Of these twenty are in staff employ, five are commanding their regiments, and five are employed regimentally. I cannot say how long these officers have remained without staff employment.

June 1st.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FROM JHALAWAR.

Restoration of Mahárájá Zalim Singh,—Two Petitions from Jhalawar, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

THE PLAGUE.

Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India whether the measures of segregation of the sick, and of the healthy from plague-infected houses, recently ordered by the Government of Bombay on the recommendation of medical men from Hong Kong, were in substance urged upon that Government early in October, 1896, by the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bombay, and again in December by a committee of Bombay medical officers presided over by the late Surgeon-Major Manser;

Whether the Surgeon-General in October advised medical examination of railway passengers at Kalyan and Virar, as being more effectual than inspection at terminal stations within Bombay limits, and whether the recommendation was disregarded by the Bombay Government for three and a-half months, during which the plague was carried to numerous fresh centres of infection:

Whether, in the measures that had been adopted and the special appointments made to deal with the plague, the Bombay Government had acted in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Sanitary Commissioner and on their recommendation:

And, whether he would lay upon the Table copies of the Report of the committee above referred to and of the recommendations of the Surgeon-General.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am unable to answer the first two questions as to the origin and paternity of the measures taken to suppress plague in Bombay, but so far as I know there has been no divergence of opinion as to the most effective measures of stamping out the pestilence, though there may have been difference of opinion as to the possibility of enforcing off-hand drastic measures. So far as I know the Bombay Government have acted throughout in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Sanitary Commissioner. As to the reports referred to I will enquire about them and consider whether they should be made public.

THE CLOSING OF THE MINTS.

Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India, whether, since the closing of the Indian mints in 1894, continuous shipments of silver had been imported into India, amounting on the average to seven crores of rupees annually, or nearly as large an amount as was imported when the mints were open:

Whether these imports were maintained in 1896-7, notwithstanding the ravages of plague and famine and the reduction of Indian exports of merchandise by nine crores of rupees:

Whether his attention had been called to the report that large consignments of the imported silver had been taken into Native States under a rebate of duty, and after being coined had been brought back into British India and sold at a profit:

Whether, in consequence of the competition of silver imports, the fluctuations in exchange were as great as ever:

And would he explain why in these circumstances the mints were still kept closed.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Indian mints were closed on the 26th of June, 1893. For the five years previous to that date the net imports of silver into India averaged Rx. 11,249,000. For the three years since 1893-4 they have averaged Rx. 6,256,000, showing a reduction of Rx. 4,993,000 or about $44\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The net imports in 1896-97 were the smallest on record since 1881-2.

I have seen the statement as to the importation of silver into Natives States in order that it may be reimported into British India at a profit; but I doubt it, as there is no provision in the law for a rebate of duty on the import of silver into Native States.

Imports of silver are not the only factors affecting exchange; and I know no reason for thinking that the fluctuations in exchange (which, I may add, have of late been very much less than those of previous years) are attributable to them.

In these circumstances there is no intention of altering the policy adopted in 1893.

THE INDIAN TARIFF ACT AND OFFICERS' EQUIPMENT.

Mr. Hudson asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that in cases of officers proceeding to serve in India, a part of their military equipment, such as their sword and revolver, was exempted from import duty, whereas their regimental saddle and bridle, equally necessary portions, were charged a duty.

And, whether he would enquire into the matter.

Lord George Hamilton: The Indian Tariff Act exempts from import duty arms imported by a military officer for the purposes of his equipment. I am not aware whether an officer's sadlery is similarly exempted from the general import duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, but I will communicate with the Government of India on the subject.

INDIAN TROOPS AT THE "JUBILEE" CELEBRATIONS.

Mr. Bartley, for Mr. Isaacson, asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether her Majesty's Government had come to any decision as to the advisability of meeting the wishes of the inhabitants of the East-end of London by allowing the colonial and Indian troops, accompanied by bands, to march through some of the main thoroughfares, decided on by the War Office, on one occasion during the Jubilee week.

Mr. Brodrick: This is a more difficult question than appears at first sight. The Jubilee procession will involve much fatigue on the colonial and Indian troops; and it will be undesirable to give them much extra work either immediately before or after the principal day. On the other hand, the Secretary of State recognises the reasonableness of the suggestion, and he will do what he can towards complying with it.

THE PLAGUE.

Mr. Henniker Heaton asked the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster-General, whether he was aware that all P. and O. steamships from Australia, which took on board Bombay mails and passengers at Aden, were, in consequence of the existence of bubonic plague at Bombay, quarantined with their passengers at all the ports of call, Suez, Port Said, Brindisi, Marseilles, etc.; whether he had received petitions, signed by nearly all the passengers by the P. and O. steamer "Parramatta," from Australia, strongly protesting against the present practice of taking the Bombay passengers at Aden on their clean ship, pointing out the further inconvenience they were subjected to by not being allowed to land at points of call, entailing delay and discomfort, and also that there was a weekly service of mails from Bombay to Aden, which might be extended to Brindisi, as it was now done fortnightly; whether the statement made by the petitioners was correct that the P. and O. Company was not responsible, as the terms of their mail contract compelled their steamers to call at Aden; and whether the Government would take action in the matter without delay.

Mr. Hanbury: The Postmaster-General understands that all Peninsular and Oriental steamships from Australia which take on board passengers from Bombay at Aden are placed in quarantine at the Egyptian ports of call. At Brindisi and Marseilles he believes there is now no regular quarantine, but only a certain medical inspection which causes little delay. The petition referred to from passengers on the steamship "Parramatta" has been received. The statement that the call at Aden is compulsory under the contracts of the Peninsular and Oriental Company with the Postmaster-General is not quite correct. The mail steamers from Australia are not obliged to call at Aden, but the Company are at liberty under the terms of the contracts to make these steamers call there and carry the mails from Bombay to Europe. A copy of the petition has been sent to the Company; but, as I stated in reply to a similar question on April 12 last, it is not in accord with the duty of the Post Office Department to take further steps in a matter which does not directly affect the mail service.

June 3rd.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

USUAL DELAY OF PAPERS.

Mr. Samuel Smith asked the Secretary of State for India whether the usual Memorandum explanatory of the Indian Financial Statement, which had already been received from Calcutta, could be presented to Parliament immediately after the recess, so that members might be better prepared to deal with that Statement when brought before the House for its adoption.

Lord George Hamilton: The Explanatory Memorandum is in the hands of the printers; but some of the information which I wish to include in it was only received by the last mail from India, and I fear that it cannot be distributed to members for some time yet.

THE SCRAMBLE FOR "JUBILEE" SEATS.

Captain Norton asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he could state how many seats had been allotted by the India Office to the officers of the army in India at present on leave in England.

Lord G. Hamilton: I stated on Monday that the seats at the disposal of the India Office for the Civil and Military services had been allotted to those in this country who were considered to have the best claims, without regard to the question whether they were on leave or not. It would serve no useful purpose to give an analysis of the distribution of the tickets among the various branches of the Service.

INDIAN MUTINY VETERANS.

Mr. F. A. Channing asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the Royal Victorian Order was to be conferred at the Jubilee on the surviving officers who served in the Crimea and in the Mutiny, the Secretary of State would take steps also to make some special provision for the surviving privates and non-commissioned officers who served in those campaigns, and who had hitherto been excluded from pensions by the existing regulations.

Mr. Brodrick: There is no authority for the statement as to the distribution of the Victorian Order suggested in the question. Non-commissioned officers and men who served in the Crimean or Indian Mutiny campaigns who have not pensions under the ordinary warrants are granted special campaign pensions provided they have given ten years' service and are in necessitous circumstances. It is not proposed to go further.

June 4th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN MUTINY VETERANS.

Captain Norton asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that there were some 2,000 veterans, who had served either in the Crimean War or the Indian Mutiny, now inmates of workhouses; and whether he would consider the advisability of granting a small pension to all those in that position who were over 70 years of age.

Mr. Brodrick: From a Return, presented this Session, it appears that in May, 1896, there were in workhouses in the United Kingdom 352 men over the age of 60 and without pension who could substantiate their claim to be discharged soldiers, although there is no evidence that they had served in the campaigns mentioned, and there is no reason to suppose that the number is now essentially different. Special campaign pensions have been awarded to Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans of 10 years' service in 2,737 cases, at a yearly cost of £36,390. In some of these cases the pensioners remain in the workhouse by their own choice, where they are allowed to receive 2s. a week to spend. It is not intended to extend these pensions to men of less than 10 years' Army service.

Sir Edward Gourley asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether the Government would, during the Jubilee year, recommend to Her Majesty the Queen the bestowal of some recognition upon those officers, soldiers, and sailors who served in the Crimea or Indian Mutiny, the two leading campaigns of her Majesty's reign.

Mr. Brodrick: All who served in the campaigns have had the medal and clasps. The services of a great number of officers engaged have been recognised by promotion and other distinctions, and of the men by the recent grant of compassionate campaign pensions, but it is not contemplated to make any general distribution of honours to the survivors at the Jubilee.

June 17th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PAPERS PRESENTED.

East India (Railways),—Copy presented—of Administration Report on the Railways in India for 1896-7, by Colonel T. Gracey, R.E., Director General of Railways [by command]; to lie upon the Table.

East India (Memorial from Desai of Badami),—Return presented,—relative thereto [Address 4th March; Sir William Wedderburn]; to lie upon the Table.

June 18th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITION.

Pensions of Forest Officers in India,—Petition of Forest Officers in India, for Alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson asked the Secretary of State for India, why the Government of India maintained colleges for the higher education of Hindus and Muhammadans in India, and why no similar provision was made for Europeans and Eurasians.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Government of India does not maintain colleges for the higher education of Hindus and Muhammadans. The Madrissa schools were established for Muhammadans requiring to be instructed in Persian and Arabic, but the students in the College Department of those schools attend lectures in the Presidency College. With this exception Government Colleges and higher schools are open to all classes without distinction.

INDIA AND THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE."

Mr. Wanklyn asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if all the detachments of Indian and Colonial troops who were visiting the United Kingdom as the guests of the Nation in connection with the Jubilee had now arrived; and, if so, whether the Colonial Office would publish a list of those Jubilee guests, setting out the localities from which they came, the name of the officer in command of each detachment, the name of the officer detailed by the Home authorities to attend

to each detachment, the total number of each detachment, the quarters where they were stationed, the arrangements which had been made for their entertainment during their visit, and any other information which might be of service to those who desired to offer hospitality to these national guests.

Mr. Chamberlain: It is expected that the entire Colonial contingent will have arrived at Chelsea Barracks by this evening. A list of the various detachments and of the Colonies they represent has already been published in the press, and I will consider whether any further details may advantageously be added.

Mr. Wanklyn asked the First Lord of the Admiralty if arrangements would be made for the detachments of Indian and Colonial troops who were visiting the United Kingdom as the guests of the Nation to witness the Naval Review free of charge, and to be suitably entertained upon that occasion at the expense of the Nation.

Mr. William Allan asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether steps could be taken to give the Colonial troops now here an opportunity of witnessing the Naval Review.

And, whether the Railway Companies could be induced to grant free passes to those troops and the Colonial Rifle teams now here, so that they might have an opportunity of seeing the places of interest in their Mother Country.

Sir John Colomb asked the First Lord of the Admiralty whether, in view of the dependence of the Colonies upon sea communication, and having regard to the resolution of the Parliament of Cape Colony respecting contribution to the Fleet, any arrangements had been made for enabling the officers and men of the Colonial Forces now in this country to witness the Naval Review; and, if so, to state what was the nature of arrangements made.

Mr. Goschen: Arrangements have been in progress from the first, for the officers and men of the Colonial forces (about 800 in number), to see the ships assembled at Spithead. A special train will be provided to take them to Portsmouth on the morning of June 30, and to bring them back in the evening. The party will be taken round the Fleet in dockyard steamers, and an opportunity will be given to them to visit certain ships. If time admits, the party will also be shown round the dockyard. Luncheon will be provided in the dockyard. The officers belonging to her Majesty's Indian forces will have an opportunity of seeing the Fleet at Spithead on Saturday, June 26. There are no troops in England.

Mr. Wanklyn: Am I to understand, from what the right hon. gentleman has said, that these detachments of Indian and Colonial troops will not be entertained on the 26th, the day of the review, and that no provision will be made for them?

Mr. Goschen: I have stated the arrangements which have been made. All the Indian officers, 62 in number, will go down on the 26th, and they will be provided for as other visitors will be. The 800 troops will go down on Wednesday, the 30th, and the whole day will be appropriated to them, and they will see all the ships. (Hear, hear.) Individual attention will be paid to them, and I think they will come back realising not only the strength of the forces at Spithead, but also the enormous resources of the dockyard. (Hear, hear.) I can assure the House and the public on the point, that, in making the arrangements, we have been most anxious to give our Colonial fellow-subjects even more special attention than they would have had if they had gone down with the thousands on the day of the review. (Cheers.)

Mr. Bartley asked the Under Secretary of State for War whether arrangements could be made by which the Colonial and Indian troops could visit the north of London.

Mr. Brodrick: The time has elapsed in which it would be practicable to make arrangements for other marches through London than those already decided on.

June 21st.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BRITISH VOLUNTEERS IN INDIA AND THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE."

Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India, whether the British Volunteers in India, constituting an Imperial force of nearly 30,000 men, were invited to send representatives to England to take part in the procession of 22nd June; and, if not, would he explain on what grounds.

Mr. G. N. Curzon, for Lord George Hamilton: The question as to what representatives of the forces in India should be sent home to take part in the procession of the 22nd June, was fully considered in communication with the Viceroy of India, and it was decided to follow the precedent of 1887, increasing the numbers of officers of the Native Cavalry, and adding representatives of the Imperial Service troops from the Native States. Neither the Native Infantry or Volunteers are represented on the present occasion.

Mr. Maclean: Will the right hon. gentleman explain on what grounds the volunteers were not asked, because it was a great slight to the whole of the Anglo-Indian community?

The Speaker: Order, order.

June 24th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN RAILWAY EXTENSION.

Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India, whether, seeing that the capital required for carrying out the programme of Indian Railway extension for the three years ending 1897, 1898, and 1899 was estimated at rather more than 29 millions of tens of rupees (Rx. 29,000,000), and that, during the period of construction, the interest charged on that outlay must heavily increase the current financial burden, it was open to the Secretary of State in Council to revise and reduce this proposed capital outlay.

Lord G. Hamilton: It is certainly open to the Secretary of State in Council to revise or reduce the capital outlay proposed for railway construction up to 1899; and any recommendation in that direction from the Government of India would receive my most careful consideration. But, seeing the great advantage accruing to India from the development of its railways, the importance of finding useful employment for the people in the distressed tracts and the waste attendant on a sudden change of such a policy as has been adopted, it would be with great regret that I should sanction any material reduction of the amount entered in the Budget Estimate.

INDIAN TROOPS AT THE "JUBILEE" CELEBRATIONS.

Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India, from what funds the expenses incurred in bringing men and Officers of the Indian Imperial Service Corps and Indian cavalry to England on account of the Jubilee Commemoration would be defrayed.

Lord G. Hamilton: The Native States concerned defray the expense of sending home the representatives of the Imperial Service troops, and similar charges for the Indian cavalry will be borne by Indian revenues. The charges for the reception and entertainment of both parties in England will be defrayed from the Imperial treasury.

Mr. Wanklyn asked the Under Secretary of State for War, if arrangements could be made for the detachments of Indian and Colonial troops who were our national guests to visit Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bradford, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, and Bristol before their departure.

Mr. W. Johnston: Before the right hon. gentleman answers that question, may I ask him to give a more favourable consideration to this request, as in Belfast, certainly, the proposition would be received in the most cordial way.

Mr. Chamberlain: My noble friend the Secretary of State for India will answer so far as the Indian troops are concerned. But as regards the colonial troops I have to say that, considering the short time remaining before the departure of the majority of them, it would be absolutely impossible to make such arrangements as suggested by the hon. member.

Mr. Wanklyn said that he had received a telegram from Bradford stating that if the colonial troops visited that town they would be warmly received. He hoped, therefore, the right hon. gentleman would favourably consider the matter.

Mr. Chamberlain: I have not the slightest doubt that the Indian and colonial troops would be warmly received everywhere in the United Kingdom, and I wish that their stay

were sufficiently prolonged to enable them to visit all the towns which have already intimated their desire to hospitably entertain them. It must be borne in mind that the Premiers of the self-governing colonies have visited most of these towns, and in that way have elicited the feelings of the population. (Cheers.)

Lord G. Hamilton: I am afraid it will hardly be possible for the officers from India who formed Her Majesty's escort to visit the places mentioned by the honourable member, as their stay in this country cannot without considerable inconvenience be lengthened.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN ASSAM.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had received any later information in reference to the loss of life and destruction of property by the recent earthquake in Assam and Sylhet, and whether he could give any information as to the position of the Missionaries of the Welsh Presbyterian Mission stationed in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills and in Sylhet.

Lord G. Hamilton: We have no later information beyond what has been published in the public journals. The later telegrams give a largely reduced estimate of the probable loss of life. Nothing is known as to the position of Missionaries in the Khasia and Jaintia Hills and Sylhet, but so soon as I can obtain any authentic information I will gladly communicate it to the honourable gentleman.

THE MURDEROUS OUTRAGE AT POONA.

Sir M. M. Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India whether he had received any detailed information from India regarding the murder at Poona of Mr. J. Rand, of the Civil Service, and of Lieutenant Ayerst, of the Commissariat Department; and whether he could state under what circumstances and by whom these diabolical acts were committed.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have received a telegram giving more detailed information concerning this outrage, which was of a determined and premeditated character. Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst were returning from an entertainment at Government House when two men at a lonely part of the wood sprang upon the springs of their respective carriages, and fired at them with pistols. Lieutenant Ayerst was shot dead by the side of his wife, and Mr. Rand was severely wounded, but is doing well. Mr. Rand was head of the Plague Commission in Poona, and had with great skill and energy practically stamped out that pestilence. He had been violently denounced by name in some of the vernacular Press for his action in that capacity. Lieutenant Ayerst was not connected with the plague operations.

June 25th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

HIGHER DEPARTMENTAL APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. Henry J. Wilson asked the Secretary of State for India, would he explain why, seeing that domiciled Europeans and Eurasians had not in the past proved their fitness by meritorious and faithful services for the higher departmental appointments in India, it was contemplated to reserve such appointments for Europeans educated in England, as indicated by the recent despatches of the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India.

Lord G. Hamilton: In reply to this question I can only say that I have no doubt that the despatches to which the honourable member refers, convey correctly the intentions of Government with regard to the higher appointments to which they apply; though, in the absence of any definite reference to the despatches themselves, I cannot say whether their purport is correctly represented in the honourable member's question.